

Message Text

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21

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8796

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT TU

SUBJ: BALLOTING IN VOTE OF CONFIDENCE

REF: ANKARA 2923

SUMMARY: SULEYMAN DEMIREL GOVERNMENT WAS ABLE TO WIN VOTE OF CONFIDENCE APRIL 12 THANKS TO ABSENCE OF THREE DEMOCRATIC PARTY MEMBERS, ONE REPUBLICAN PEOPLES PARTY RESIGNATION AND VOTES OF THRITEN INDEPENDENT DEPUTIES. TENSIONS EVIDENT DURING SESSION MARKED BY FIGHTS SUGGEST NEW GOVERNMENT CAN EXPECT DIFFICULT TIME WITH PARLIAMENTARY OPPOSITION. END SUMMARY.

1. A REVIEW OF THE BALLOTING IN THE APRIL 12 VOTE OF CONFIDENCE SHOWS THAT THE DEMIREL GOVERNMENT'S SUPPORT CONSISTED OF:
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(A) 149 JUSTICE PARTY (JP) VOTES (ONE MEMBER ABSTAINED);

(B) ALL THE VOTES OF THE JP'S COALITION PARTNERS (48 NAAIONAL SALVATION PARTY (NSP), NINE REPUBLICAN RELIANCE PARTY (RR), AND THREE NATIONAL ACTION PARTY (NAP) VOTES); (C) 13 INDEPENDENTS. OPPOSING THE DEMIREL COALITION WERE (A) 187 REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP) VOTES (ONE RPP DEPUTY RESIGNED SHORTLY BEFORE THE SESSION, ANOTHER SERVED AS THE NON-VOTING SPEAKER); 28 DEMOCRATIC PARTY (DP) MEMBERS (THREE DEMOCRATS WERE ABSENT FROM THE BALLOTING); (C) TWO INDEPENDENTS AND (D) THE SINGLE MEMBER OF THE TURKISH UNITY PARTY (TUP). ONE INDEPENDENT ABSTAINED.

2. DEMIREL'S SUCCESS THUS RESTED TO A CONSIDERABLE EXTENT ON THE THIRTEEN INDEPENDENTS, EIGHT OF WHOM HAD RESIGNED FROM THE DP IN LATE MARCH; THE REMAINING FIVE INCLUDED ONE EX-NSP DEPUTY AND FOUR WHO WERE INDEPENDENTS OF LONG-STANDING. ANOTHER HIGHLY IMPORTANT FACTOR WAS THE ABSENCE OF FOUR DEPUTIES (FROM WHICH THEY PROBABLY WILL BE SPEARATED,) WHO, HAD THEY VOTED WITH THEIR PARTIES, WOULD HAVE PRODUCED A TIE. IN ALL, DEMIREL'S NARROW VICTORY SEEMS TO HAVE DEPENDED ON A VERY SHAKY STRUCTURE OF PARLIAMENTARY SUPPORT.

3. DURING THE VOTING IT WAS CLEAR THAT FEELINGS WERE RUNNING HIGH AMONT PRO-AND ANTI-GOVERNMENT FACTIONS. AS A RESULT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY TENSION AND DISORDER (REFTTEL), THE SPEAKER OF THE ASSEMBLY SUFFERED A MILD HEART ATTACK AFTERWARD. GIVEN THE DEGREE OF EMEOTION AROUSED ON BOTH SIDES BY THE FORMATION OF THE NATIONALIST FRONT, AS WELL AS THE LINGERING BITTERNESS FROM THE VAROIUS PARTY CROSSOVERS, IT SEEMS PROBABLE THAT THE DEMIREL GGOVERNMENT WILL FACE UNUSUALLY HOSTILE OPPOSITION (IN ADDITION TO THE DIFFICULTIES OF HOLDING THE COALITION TOGETHER) AS IT SEEKS TO PUSH ITS LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM THROUGH PARLIAMENT.

MACOMBER

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